1/28/71

Dear Art,

Ordinarily, as you may recall, I phone you instead of writing. I writie because this appears to be a matter on which there should be tighter security.

Perhaps I have never told you, but there is a police department with which I work. They asked it. It is not local, where I live, nor is it federal. It is part of a department with a special radical-right extremist problem in their laps, so they have a specialist on radical-right extremists who does nothing else, normally. I have some very good sources and they find some of the information quite useful. Right now, for that matter, the FBI has a stack of my xeroxes 3" high, from inside one of the more extreme groups, quite violence-prone. I never make reference to these things and, as a matter of fact, with the inside stuff I get, I have my source's permission.

Last night I had a visit from my police contact, who has a special problem with which, perhaps, I can help him. While he was here, on that (despite the worst weather of the winer thus far), he talked me to about something else to see if I'd heard of it. It had a faintly familiar ring, but I finally decided I had not heard of it. It is about this that I write, this strange little thing about which he questioned me. He asked me if any of my sources had ever mentioned anything about an island an hour's flying time from Florida that these extremists had obtained or taken over or planned to.

Now an hpur's flying time from Florida can vary from not much over 100 miles by small plane to 600 by jet. He didn't have a more definite location, and he asked for my hunches. The first is the reason I write you. I'd suspect that some of the characters have pretty good connections with Papa Doc and could have made some such arrangement with him. Aside from the Bahamas, which may not be impossible, and Cuba, which I believe to be impossible for such cats, the next closest are the islands of Haiti or the Dominican Republic. Off such places as Guatemala this might not be impossible, either.

With any of these, Gerry Patrick Hemming and Larry Howard might know, esp. with Haiti, even though the last I heard from them was when they let me tape their story of their coming invasion of Haiti with CIA support (10/68).

Of the extremists, those I'd consider most likely to dream up something like this which they could regard as a refuge when Nixon finally brings in his red hordes from China, would have to include the Minutemen. Anyway, the purpose of this letter is to ask if you can get in touch with Hemming, Howard or any others you know who might have some inkling of this. If it turns out to be true, in the end you'd also have a story. In fact, maybe one we could sell. It is far-out enough.

On another subject, I expect a reporter friend to be out in that part of the country soon. I told him to look you up, if he has time and needs help. He is Paul Valentine, of the Washington Post, and he has other rightist-extremist interests that extend to your area. Paul, is a good reporter and I also like him.

Thanks for anything you can do.

Sincerely,